

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for a brush cutter, or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string extending along an axis that is offset from an axis of rotation of the cutting head, at least one curved bearing zone extending between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone.

2. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the recess formed in the curved bearing zone joins the string passageway in a substantially continuous manner.

3. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 2, characterized in that the curved bearing zone is situated on a widening of the string passageway in the vicinity of a string outlet.

4. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the profile of the surface of the curved bearing zone is constant.

5. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the string passageway is disposed so as to maintain the cutting string in a given orientation.

6. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the string has a polygonal cross-section, and the string has a ridge situated at the level of a trailing edge of the string.

7. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 6, characterized in that the recessed profile is in the general form of a V.

8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 6, characterized in that the string possesses a cutting ridge at the level of a leading edge of the string.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the curved bearing zone joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.

10. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that a secondary curved bearing zone is provided on the side of the string passageway opposite the curved bearing zone with recessed profile, and the secondary curved bearing zone also presents a recessed profile.

11. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 10, characterized in that the cutting string has a cross-section which is symmetrical in relation to an axial mid-plane, and the recessed profiles of the two curved bearing zones are identical.

12. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 1, characterized in that the recess of the curved bearing zone is formed in the region where two parts assembled to form together the string passageway and the curved bearing zone meet.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to Claim 10, characterized in that the recess of the curved bearing zone or of each curved bearing zone is formed in the region where two parts assembled to form together the string passageway and the secondary curved bearing zone meet.

15–23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A cutting head for a brush cutter or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string having a non-circular cross-section and at least one curved bearing zone extending between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile in its optimal cutting orientation when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone.

25. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 24, wherein the cutting string has a generally square cross-section and the curved bearing zone presents a V-shaped profile.

26. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string wherein the passageway extends along an axis between an opening and a string outlet region, at least one curved bearing zone extending between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein the string outlet region is spaced farther inwardly from the peripheral region than is the opening, and wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone.

27. (New) A cutting head according to claim 1, wherein the axis of the passageway is inclined relative to a direction perpendicular to the peripheral region of the head.

28. (New) A cutting head for a brush cutter, or edge trimmer, the cutting head comprising a passageway for a cutting string and at least one curved bearing zone extending

between a string outlet region of said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, wherein a surface of the curved bearing zone presents a recessed profile which is suited to the cross-section of the cutting string, in order to retain the cutting string in the recessed profile when the string flexes in a direction opposite to the rotation of the head to rest against the curved bearing zone, and wherein the string passageway presents a recessed profile identical to the profile of the curved bearing zone.

29. (New) A cutting head according to claim 28, wherein the height of the curved bearing zone is equal to the height of the string passageway.